

PERSONAL APPLICATION

- How certain are you that, after this life is over, you will be resurrected to eternal life with Jesus. What can you do this week to bolster your faith in this area?
- What can you do this week to help you move from doubt to worship in regards to the resurrected Christ?
- What are some ways you can fulfill the Great Commission (of making disciples) in the context of your family? Work? Community? What is something you can do this week?

PRAYER

- Take time to list all the areas of doubt or disbelief in your heart. Ask God to show up in those areas and reveal Himself to you.
- Are there any areas in your life that you might describe as dead, destroyed, or lost that you would like to ask God to restore? Pray for those things.
- Do you know any other people who are spiritually dead, struggling with broken dreams, damaged relationships, or sick or injured bodies? Lift them up in prayer, asking God to resurrect them.
- Ask God to point out people in your life who may not know the good news of Jesus' resurrection, while asking for boldness and confidence to share the good news.

NOTES



Week 1: Jesus

CONNECT

- What is the first thing that you do on a Sunday morning?
- Which do you tend to believe more: What you hear? What you see? What you want?

WORD

"⁵The angel said to the women, 'Do not be afraid, for I know that you are looking for Jesus, who was crucified. ⁶He is not here; he has risen, just as he said. Come and see the place where he lay. ⁷Then go quickly and tell his disciples: 'He has risen from the dead and is going ahead of you into Galilee. There you will see him.' Now I have told you."⁸

"¹¹While the women were on their way, some of the guards went into the city and reported to the chief priests everything that had happened. ¹²When the chief priests had met with the elders and devised a plan, they gave the soldiers a large sum of money, ¹³telling them, 'You are to say, 'His disciples came during the night and stole him away while we were asleep."¹⁴

"¹⁶Then the eleven disciples went to Galilee, to the mountain where Jesus had told them to go. ¹⁷When they saw him, they worshiped him; but some doubted."

"¹⁸Then Jesus came to them and said, 'All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. ¹⁹Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the

Holy Spirit, ²⁰and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you. And surely I am with you always, to the very end of the age.”

Matthew 28:5-7, 11-13, 16-20 (NIV)

THOUGHT

The concept of Christ rising from the dead on the third day is not always easy for us to grasp. How would we have reacted if we were the ones to find the empty tomb? Even Jesus’ disciples were surprised and doubtful when they heard the news. As humans, we tend to be slow to believe and quick to doubt, because we have the mindset that we need to visibly see or hear something in order to believe it. However, that is where the challenge of faith comes in: the assurance of things unseen. In this bible study, we will reflect on the message of the resurrection of Jesus—the true message of Easter and the most important day of Jesus’ life on earth. It is the foundation of our hope in this hopeless world. It is also essential to remember the message that Jesus left for us here on this earth. Jesus left his disciples with a powerful assignment known as ‘The Great Commission.’ He said to “go and make disciples of all nations,” reassuring them that “surely I am with you always, to the very end of the age.”

1. How do you think the women felt on their way to the tomb?

- ☐ *sad*
- ☐ *worried about facing the soldiers*
- ☐ *exhausted*
- ☐ *expectant*
- ☐ *sentimental*

2. When they found the stone rolled back and an angel sitting on it, how do you think they felt?

- ☐ *Scared to death*
- ☐ *Wondering who took the body*
- ☐ *overcome with grief—They could not take any more heartache*
- ☐ *overcome with joy—They knew Jesus would come back.*

3. Why did the chief priests and elders want to spread the rumor that Jesus’ disciples stole his body (vs.11-13)?

- ☐ *He was a threat to them*
- ☐ *He might file charges against them for falsely accusing him.*
- ☐ *The resurrection would prove that he really is the son of God*
- ☐ *They saw him as a trouble-maker and wanted to keep the peace*
- ☐ *Other _____*

4. When the disciples saw Jesus in Galilee, why do you think doubt was mingled with their worship (vs.17)?

5. Would you describe your response toward Jesus’ resurrection as more ‘doubt’ or more ‘worship’? Did you come to your response quickly or slowly, as a gut response or a logical conclusion?

6. If you had been one of the disciples, what part of Jesus’ “Great Commission” would have been the most important to you (vs.18-20)?

- ☐ *He has authority over everything*
- ☐ *He wants me to spread the word*
- ☐ *He will always be with me*
- ☐ *There will come a time when history would come to a close*

7. Jesus sent an angel to tell Mary and the other women that he had risen from the dead. Why do you think God gave the Great Commission to us to do and not to angels? Why is it important?